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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

FRENEL, VANEL

ART UNIT

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3687

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/757,822	Applicant(s) WILLE, VOLKMAR	
	Examiner VANEL FRENEL	Art Unit 3687	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant

1. This communication is response to the application filed on 01/15/04. Claims 1-10 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bjornson (6,505,145) in view of Hawman et al. (2003/0040826).

(A) As per claim 1, Bjornson discloses a product management method for managing products, product parts, and identifiers associated with the products and product parts (See Bjornson, Fig.2, 3A, 5; Col.9, lines 49-67), and for monitoring and controlling operations during a repair of a device or site containing the products or product parts (See Bjornson, Col.12, lines 43-67 to Col.13, line 4), wherein the identifiers and associated material master data are stored in a database (See Bjornson, Fig.6; Col.13, lines 9-30), the method which comprises: generating a first database extract representing the device or site to be repaired from the database (See Bjornson, Fig.9; Col.18, lines 23-68 to Col.19, line 17); generating a symbol or an image from the data of the first database extract, the symbol or image being displayable on an input and output

device and storable in an image data memory (See Bjornson, Col.13, lines 22-67); inputting one or more serial numbers of the device or of the site into the input and output device for data adjustment (See Bjornson, Col.10, lines 50-67; Col.12, lines 32-67); removing the product or product part to be repaired as a repair part and inputting the spare part, with the identifier, into the input and output device and storing the information (See Bjornson, Col.8, lines 24-56); generating an altered image and generating an altered database extract corresponding to the repaired device or site from said altered image (See Bjornson, Col.13, lines 31-67); and storing the altered database extract in the database memory (See Bjornson, Col.12, lines 43-59).

Bjornson does not explicitly disclose the extract containing the identifiers and associated material master data including warranty data of the device or site. However, this feature is known in the art, as evidenced by Hawman. In particular, Hawman suggests disclose the extract containing the identifiers and associated material master data including warranty data of the device or site (See Hawman, Page 4, Paragraph 0072).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included the feature of Hawman within the system of Bjornson with the motivation of providing a maintenance method and apparatus that increases the visibility of parts and flow between areas of the maintenance facility (See Hawman, Page 2, Paragraph 0027).

(B) As per claim 2, Bjornson discloses the method wherein the identifiers are unique

serial numbers and serial number combinations (See Bjornson, Col.10, lines 50-67).

(C) As per claim 3, Hawman discloses the method which further comprises: determining whether or not a warranty case is present in the database with respect to the repair part (See Hawman, Page 7, Paragraphs 0103-0105); delivering the repair part to a vendor as a warranty case or as a repair case without warranty, whereupon the vendor returns the part as a new part or as a repaired part (See Hawman, Page 7, Paragraphs 0103-0105); supplying the repair part to inventory stock via a goods receipt module and storing in the data memory (See Hawman, Page 4, Paragraph 0072); and storing new warranty data of the repair part in the data memory (See Hawman, Page 6, Paragraphs 0092-0093).

(D) As per claim 4, Bjornson discloses a data processing system for managing products, product parts, and identifiers associated with the products and product parts (See Bjornson, Fig.2, 3A, 5; Col.9, lines 49-67), and for monitoring and controlling operations during a repair of a device or site containing the products or product parts (See Bjornson, Col.12, lines 43-67 to Col.13, line 4), wherein the identifiers and associated material master data are stored in a database and warranty data form part of the database (See Bjornson, Fig.6; Col.13, lines 9-30), the system comprising: a processing module for providing a first database extract associated with the device or site to be repaired from the database (See Bjornson, Fig.9; Col.18, lines 23-68 to Col.19, line 17), the first database extract containing the identifiers and associated

material master data of the device or site (See Bjornson, Col.13, lines 31-67); a processing module for creating a symbol or image from data of the first database extract and storing in an image data memory, wherein the symbol or image is configured for display on an input and output device (See Bjornson, Col.13, lines 22-67); at least one input and output device configured for input of one or more identifiers of the device or the site for the purpose of data adjustment (See Bjornson, Col.10, lines 50-67; Col.12, lines 32-67); a processing module enabling a product or product part to be repaired to be removed as a repair part, whereupon an identifier of a spare part is input into said input and output device and stored (See Bjornson, Col.8, lines 24-56).

Bjornson does not explicitly disclose that the system having a processor for generating an altered image and for generating an altered database extract corresponding to the repaired device or site from the altered image; and a device for storing the altered database extract in the database memory.

However, these features are known in the art, as evidenced by Hawman. In particular, Hawman suggests that the system having a processor for generating an altered image and for generating an altered database extract corresponding to the repaired device or site from the altered image (See Hawman, Page 2, Paragraphs 0029-0030); and a device for storing the altered database extract in the database memory (See Hawman, Page 2, Paragraphs 0028-0030).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included the feature of Hawman within the system of Bjornson with the motivation of providing a maintenance method and apparatus that increases the

visibility of parts and flow between areas of the maintenance facility (See Hawman, Page 2, Paragraph 0027).

(E) As per claim 5, Bjornson discloses the system wherein the identifiers are unique serial numbers and serial number combinations (See Bjornson, Col.10, lines 50-67).

(F) As per claim 6, Bjornson discloses the system wherein said processor module and said device for storing are contained in a single system module (See Bjornson, Col.8, lines 23-43).

(G) As per claim 7, Hawman discloses the data processing system wherein the system is configured to: determine whether or not a warranty case is present in the database with respect to the repair part; deliver the repair part to the vendor as a warranty case or as a repair case without warranty and forwarded by the vendor as a new part or a repaired part (See Hawman, Page 7, Paragraphs 0103-0105); supply the repair part to inventory stock a goods receipt module and to store in the data memory (See Hawman, Page 4, Paragraph 0072); and store new warranty data of the repair part in the data memory (See Hawman, Page 6, Paragraphs 0092-0093).

(H) As per claim 8, Bjornson discloses the data processing system implemented as a distributed system with a plurality of modules and at least one mobile input and output device (See Bjornson, Col.11, lines 44-67).

(I) As per claim 9, Bjornson discloses a computerized warranty management system, comprising a plurality of modules configured to perform the method according to claim 1 (See Bjornson, Fig.2; Col.11, lines 44-67).

(J) As per claim 10, Bjornson discloses a computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method according to claim 1 (See Bjornson, Col.8, lines 23-43).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited but not the applied art teaches electronic content delivery system (6,266,618).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VANEL FRENEL whose telephone number is (571)272-6769. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew S. Gart can be reached on 571-272-3955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Vanel Frenel/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3687

May 26, 2008